

# NLG NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Numismatic Literary Guild Inc.

Volume 33, No. 2

Spring 2002

## SEND THOSE ENTRIES!

### 2002 WRITERS' COMPETITION DEADLINE JUNE 24

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY JUNE 24, 2002  
AND RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN JUNE 28, 2002.

**NOTE: Some categories have new numbers this year. Please check the rules and use the correct number on each entry to avoid disqualification.**

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK... BY ED REITER

#### HERE COME THE JUDGES!

It's that time again – time to dust off those books, columns, articles and other literary gems you've produced during the last year and send them off to the annual NLG Writers' Competition.

This year's contest covers the period from May 1, 2001 to April 30, 2002. To qualify for consideration, entries must have been published during that 12-month period.

Obviously, this can get tricky at the beginning and end of the period; the May issue of a magazine, for instance, probably was published in April or even March. For purposes of our contest, the operative date is when an entry was published, not the cover date.

I'm pleased to report that the contest will be coordinated again this year by Scott Travers. Scott has performed this service for

more than a decade, and during that period he has done a first-rate job of recruiting distinguished judges, distributing entries among them and getting the dozens of plaques prepared in time for presentation to winners at the Bash.

The address to send all entries remains unchanged: Scott Travers, c/o Sal Germano, SGRC Inc., 625 Lafayette Ave., Hawthorne, N.J. 07506. Entries must be postmarked no later than Monday, June 24, 2002 and received no later than Friday, June 28, 2002.

The rules remain much the same as they were a year ago. Some of the categories have new numbers, however, because of the addition of a new category covering articles published in non-numismatic newspapers.

For years, the Guild has offered annual recognition – in the form of the Maurice M. Gould Award – to the best coin column



published on a regular basis in a non-numismatic newspaper. At one time, in fact, this award was given in three separate classifications – for columns in large newspapers (100,000 and higher circulation), small newspapers (under 100,000) and syndicated form.

Sadly, the number of coin columns appearing in the general press has shriveled to a handful during recent years – to the point where on occasion, we receive no entries at all in this category. On the other hand, we have noticed an encouraging increase in the number of individual articles written about coins and related topics since the advent of the 50-state Washington quarters in 1999.

In establishing the new category – Category 17 – to recognize such articles, we are hoping to foster even greater awareness of, and interest in, our hobby among the general press and public. Perhaps this might even lead to the establishment of regular

*Cont. on page 2*



## Director's Desk *Cont. from page 1*

coin columns at some of these publications.

We encourage NLG members to contact newspapers in their area which may have published coin-related articles during the last year and make them aware of the contest. Members might assist authors or editors in submitting entries – or even submit the entries themselves on behalf of the publications.

Our goals are twofold: to expand press coverage of subjects related to our hobby, and also to create potential new outlets for numismatic writers.

Donn Pearlman opened our eyes to the great potential benefits of this area last year, when he submitted articles from several major newspapers dealing with the *SS Central America* treasure. We presented an Extraordinary Merit award to one of the entries, but it seemed logical to go a step further this year and formalize this as a regular category.

I would urge you to follow the contest rules precisely in submitting all entries this year. Too often in the past, entrants have failed to do so, complicating the judging and jeopardizing their chances of winning an award.

Be sure to attach a cover sheet

to each copy of every entry, providing the information specified in the rules. With few exceptions, each entry must be submitted in triplicate, so there must be three cover sheets – one for each copy of the entry. Failure to comply may result in disqualification of an entry.

Looking beyond the contest, the Guild's big day this year will be Thursday, Aug. 1 and the location will be the Marriott Marquis Hotel in midtown Manhattan – the site of this year's convention of the American Numismatic Association. Our symposium will take place that morning at the hotel, and the Bash will be held in the evening. We'll have more details as the time gets closer.

New York has endured tremendous trauma in recent months, but it has also made a remarkable recovery since Sept. 11 – and the ANA convention will represent one more life-affirming step on that comeback trail.

NLG activities – especially the Bash – are always important highlights of the ANA's busy week, and we'll do our best to keep that tradition alive and well this year.

## NLG ELECTION

Two seats are up for grabs this year on the NLG Board of Directors. The two directors holding those seats, Kari Stone and Wendell Wolka, are eligible for re-election and will retain them for two more years unless other candidates throw their hats in the ring.

Anyone interested in seeking a seat on the Board must obtain nominations from at least three NLG members in good standing.

These should be sent to Ed Reiter, Executive Director, 12 Abbington Ter., Glen Rock, N.J. 07452 and must be received no later than July 1, 2002. All candidates, of course, must be members in good standing themselves.

If any qualified candidates submit the required nominations by July 1, a mail ballot will be sent to all members and results will be tabulated during the ANA convention in New York.

# NLG NEWSLETTER

Since 1968, the official publication of the Numismatic Literary Guild Inc.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

**ED REITER**

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Glen Rock, NJ 07452  
TEL. (201) 612-0482  
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## ELECTED DIRECTORS:

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**KARI STONE**  
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Election results will be announced at the Bash.

The two winning candidates will serve for two years, and any new Board member elected this year will be eligible for a second term thereafter. Among other things, Board members review all membership applications and nominate potential recipients for the Clemy.

The other three current Board members – David T. Alexander, David C. Harper and R.W. "Bob" Julian – were elected last year to two-year terms ending in 2003.

## Editorial Notes

By Tom DeLorey

Hello again. We've got two really good, relevant articles in this issue, one by Pete Smith on biographical research and one by

David Vagi on the basic literature of ancient numismatics. I hope that you enjoy them.

Pete accompanied his article with a letter that stated that he hoped that the *NLG Newsletter* would not continue its recent pattern of one Fall issue announcing the winners of the Literary Awards, and another Spring issue announcing the next year's contest. I fear that his concerns are well founded, for these are the only two articles I have received in six months, other than the obituary for Jay Guren sent in by our former Editor, David T. Alexander.

David Vagi's article on the comprehensive literature of one particular field suggests a good topic for future articles on the basic literature of other fields. Would anybody care to do a similar list for the basic literature of exonumia? U.S. coins? U.S. paper

money? World coins or paper money including and beyond the wealth that is the Krause series? Surely there are other fields as well.

On another subject, I would like to begin a directory of NLG members' e-mail addresses, to be published in each issue. Inclusion is strictly voluntary, and the list will be sold to no one. If you are interested in being included in such a directory beginning with the next issue, please send me your current e-mail address, at: [NLGEDITOR@aol.com](mailto:NLGEDITOR@aol.com), or to [TOMDELOREY@aol.com](mailto:TOMDELOREY@aol.com).

In case we don't have another issue before then, I will see you at the New York ANA convention. I will be at Harlan J. Berk's table in the Ancient and Foreign coin section from Thursday through Sunday.

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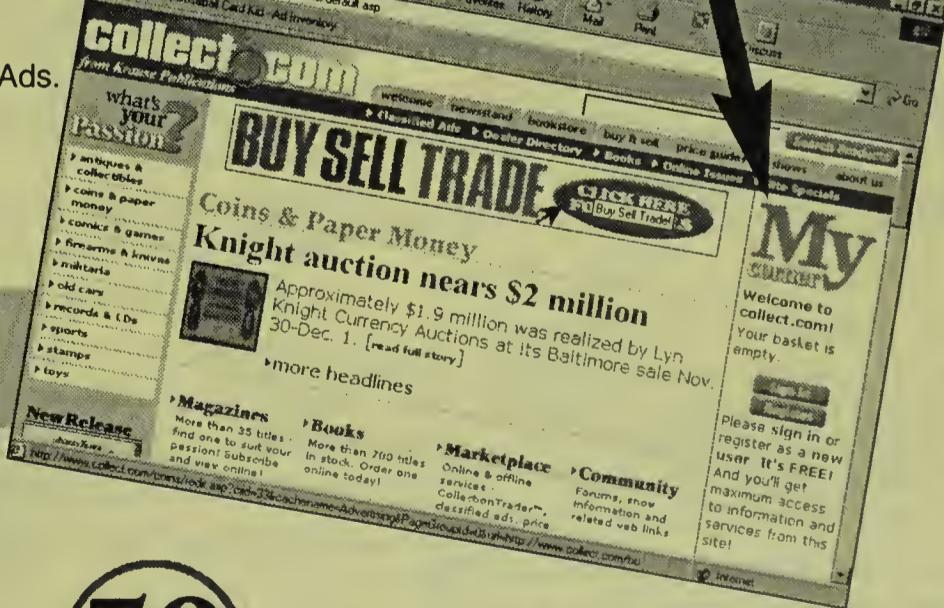
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# INTRODUCING ANCIENT COINS

By David L. Vagi

If anything has traditionally restricted the growth of ancient coin collecting, it has been the lack of good introductory books. Making matters worse, ancient coin books usually have had low press runs, and the high sticker prices that inevitably result.

In this article we'll examine the field of introductory books, handbooks and catalogs with valuations that have been generally available to collectors in the last half of the 20th Century. In advance I can say that with each passing decade the collector has been increasingly fortunate, as older titles tended to be recycled in the used book circuit and new titles were released with some frequency.

First, we'll get the Internet out of the way, for this article is about the printed word, not the computer monitor. The Internet offers an immense amount of information, both accurate and fanciful, and has proven to be a real boon for the ancient coin world. No doubt its greatest impact has been in making the general public aware that not all ancient coins are impounded behind museum glass, and that they can be acquired even by your average Joe.

Now, back to pulp. People have become introduced to ancient coins from all sorts of printed works ranging from encyclopedias, historical works, even the occasional travel brochure depicting the familiar Athens tetradrachm. But once their curiosity is raised by the coincidental exposures just mentioned, how do they learn more?

A variety of "general" coin books make reference to ancient coins. Sometimes they provide substantial information, but more often just a passing mention. The best books in this category are those devoted to world coins. The most influential of these was R.A.G. Carson's 1962 classic "Coins of the World." Then an assistant keeper in the British Museum's coin and medals department, Carson devoted more than a third of his 642 pages to ancient Greek, Roman and Byzantine coins.

Perhaps the most familiar introductory books for collectors who started in the 1960s, '70s and '80s are the two handbooks written by Zander H. Klawans and published by Whitman on a large scale beginning in 1959. His first, "Reading and Dating Roman Imperial Coins" (128 pages) was soon followed up with "An Outline of Ancient Greek Coins" (208 pages). These small-format books served an important purpose: They introduced ancient coins at an affordable price.

Klawans' heavily illustrated books were about as basic as possible (Clain-Stefanelli's comment: "Only for beginners"), but that was their magic. On some level Klawans' books were severely boiled-down versions of monumental works such as Barclay Head's "Historia Numorum." Despite the occasional fundamental error (the gold aureus was worth 25 silver denarii, not 20), Klawans' books gave collectors a highly portable, illustrated checklist to aid them in identifying and classifying their coins.

Many thousands who are now enamored with ancients may never have known of their existence or availability without the

Klawans books. So successful is his formula that in 1995 both books were combined under the title "Handbook of Ancient Greek and Roman Coins." At \$10.95 for both titles, they continue to fulfill their original purpose.

The hobby also benefited greatly in the 1960s and '70s when several important books of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries were reprinted. Chief among these were Barclay Head's "Historia Numorum: A Manual of Greek Numismatics," Edward Newell's "Royal Greek Portrait Coins," Leonard Forrer's "Portraits of Royal Ladies on Greek Coins," Harold Mattingly's "Roman Coins," G.F. Hill's "Ancient Greek and Roman Coins: A Handbook," and Severin Icard's "Dictionary of Greek Coin Inscriptions."

Also during this period, Norman Davis produced two useful "survey" books on Greek coins. The first, "Greek Coins & Cities" (1967), was arranged geographically. His second, "The Hellenistic Kingdoms: Portrait Coins and History," released five years later in collaboration with Colin Kraay, was arranged geographically and chronologically. Both were attractive and contained good information for collectors of all levels.

In the midst of the introduction of all this, the first books in the important "Seaby" series came off the press. Herbert A. Seaby was the architect of these collector handbooks, which contained brief introductions followed by extensive catalog listings of coins, all of which were described and given market valuations.

Though listing and pricing

coins was nothing new (Henri Cohen's turn-of-the-century eight-volume series on Roman coins was still the standard reference in Europe, and had been freshly reprinted in 1955), this was a stroke of genius because it condensed large amounts of information into small volumes that were both portable and affordable. At long last, the ancient coin collector had companions.

David Sear, who was then employed by Seaby, was involved in the production of the early volumes and later inherited the Seaby book legacy. Over subsequent decades he not only improved upon the original works, but added new titles. For these reasons, collectors call the books in this category "Sear" or "Seaby" books almost interchangeably.

Falling into the Seaby-Sear category are "Greek Coins and

Their Values" (two volumes, one for Europe, the other for Asia and North Africa), "Greek Imperial Coins and Their Values" (a single volume covering Roman Provincial issues), "Roman Coins and Their Values" (originally one volume, now being expanded to three), "Byzantine Coins and Their Values" (a single volume) and the five volumes entitled "Roman Silver Coins."

A variety of other books were published long after the Seaby-Sear legacy had taken root, including "Collecting Greek Coins" (1990) and "The Handbook of Roman Imperial Coins" (1991), written and published in quick succession by David Van Meter. Though formulaically similar to Sear's books, they were the virtual opposites in other respects: The text was looser, market values were given in very broad ranges, and most importantly of all, they were sold very

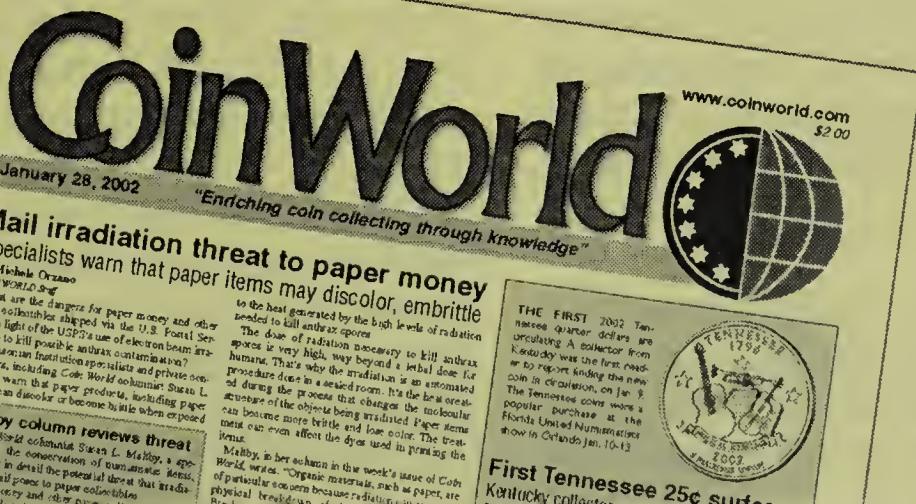
inexpensively. With so many collectors annoyed at the high cost of even basic numismatic books, these understandably became very popular.

In 1998 and 1999 two interesting books on Roman coins were published. The first, in 1998, was David Sear's finest work, "The History and Coinage of the Roman Imperators, 49-27 B.C." In 360 pages it offered an intimately detailed view of the most intriguing era of Roman coins. Then, late in 1999, *Coin World* published a nearly 1,300-page two-volume work by myself entitled "Coinage and History of the Roman Empire." The first volume had historical backgrounds and biographies of coin issuers, and the second offered a technical background on coinage and a catalog of coins with values in three grades. It sold out quickly and won major book awards from the IAPN, PNG and NLG.

*Cont. on page 11*

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(published weekly - ave. 110 pgs.)

# REMEMBERING 'UNCLE JAY': AN APPRECIATION OF JAY P. GUREN

By David T. Alexander

The man who could have been called legitimately "the Dean of American Numismatic Writers" died recently with remarkably little fanfare. In a numismatic world notable for huge egos, Jay Guren worked prodigiously but had little desire to stand out. Although already well established as a writer for *Coin World* when the Numismatic Literary Guild (NLG) was founded in 1968, he steadfastly refused to join the Guild.

After arguing the point for seven years, I came to believe that Jay's opposition to joining was not to the Guild itself, but to what might politely be called the uncritical devotion of his editor to several leading lights of the organization, notably two heads of the U.S. Mint to whose activities vast column space was then being devoted.

Jay was a man the Guild could have used, who had many sensible ideas that might have advanced the organization along its stated basic course, but this was not to be.

I first met Jay Guren on my first day as a full-time staff writer at *Coin World* in April 1974. I had driven up with my Labrador retriever and 25 boxes of books from my old home in Miami, Florida, to Sidney, Ohio and a part of the world in which I had never lived before.

It was an exciting time for me and my new employer; only a couple of weeks before, Amos

Press Inc. pulled up its roots on the town square and moved to the brand new facility on Vandemark Road. Roosting at an old desk in a corridor outside Editor Margo Russell's office, I was ordered to type out a numismatic biography, then "give it to Jay," CW's feature editor over in the next room.

I handed the finished copy to the slightly bald occupant of that desk, who looked up through bifocals that seemed like the bottoms of Coke bottles and asked somewhat gruffly, "What's this?" I explained that I had just signed on and he asked, "Well, are you good for anything, play the Jew's harp or anything useful?"

I was getting my first experience with what I soon came to know was the dreaded Guren wit. Staring fixedly at me, my new colleague announced: "You don't look too good! I'd better save the type!" Only the wide grin that then broke out saved me from seriously believing that he intended writing my obituary then and there.

In the months to follow I learned that Jay was a fellow ex-New Yorker, then in his 12th year at CW. Once a resident of Brooklyn, he had modified his Basque family name from the original Eguiguren, "so my daughter won't have to keep explaining she's not some kind of Yugoslav." The new spelling still caused problems and it seemed Jay was forever explaining to readers phoning in, "That's GUREN, G as in George, U-R-E-N!"

Escaping cardiac problems brought on by the furious pace of work as an ad man on New York's Madison Avenue, he had gone out

to Sidney to sell J. Oliver Amos on the idea of a book to be entitled "The Best of Coin World." The book idea didn't sell, but Jay inadvertently sold himself to Amos Press, where he remained some 30 years

To newcomers such as Tom DeLorey and me, the sheer quantity of Jay's output for the paper strained belief. Jay's old Royal manual typewriter clacked away week in and week out, filling papers averaging 120 pages but climbing to a peak of 154 pages in the 1974 American Numismatic Association convention edition. It is a fact that Jay Guren wrote more numismatic copy in his 30-odd years as a full-time writer than all of the rest of numismatic newspaper staffers everywhere - combined.

When the IBM Selectrics came in with their photo-scannable copy, we were amazed at the condition of Jay's old Royal manual, loose in every joint, on the brink of imminent collapse with only its cast iron frame free of wobbling and shaking.

He contributed vastly to the first "Coin World Almanac," but it seemed strange to younger writers that in this lifetime of production, Jay's only full-length numismatic book was an in-depth catalog of New Orleans Mardi Gras medals and throws, "Carnival Panorama, New Orleans Mardi Gras Medals and Crews, 1884-1965," co-authored with Richard Ugan.

Published by Anderson Publications, New Orleans, and printed by Amos Press, "Guren-Ugan" has long been an unobtainable classic for even the most determined Mardi Gras collectors

in the field, which has grown exponentially since 1965. Jay treasured a review of his book by the *Sidney Daily News*, identifying the senior author as "Jay Guren of the 'Corn World' published here."

He was an enthusiast, almost a votary of the late H. Alvin Sharpe, described as the father of the modern carnival throw. He extolled the colorful Sharpe as a Renaissance man, a gem cutter and prospector, metal-worker, and all-purpose general artist who had once walked across the continent of Australia. Sharpe's metallic style was certainly unique, though its principal medium of Mardi Gras throws seemed a trifle odd or at least confining to non-believers.

Each morning at 8:30, CW's then News Editor Ron Keysor, Jay or I took turns strolling down to the coffee machine with a battered wooden box to buy coffee for the group. Invariably Jay would heave a great sigh and intone his never-changing blessing on "a good cup of coffee," regardless of whatever ersatz swill the machine had just decanted.

For many years, Tom DeLorey and I accompanied Jay and Jim Hoying of the *Sidney Daily News* ad department for lunch in such institutions as the Elks Club downtown or the Sidney Holiday Inn (then the best restaurant in town—until they opened a McDonald's—TKD). Jay's lunchtime humor was often delightfully irreverent, especially toward hobby luminaries that CW frequently treated with somewhat exaggerated deference. His knowledge of their many foibles made his humor all the more sidesplitting and a much-needed anti-

dote to some of the deification that was then editorial policy.

He possessed a vast knowledge of all areas of U.S. numismatics, especially the token and medal fields, and had deep familiarity with American politics and personalities. He was a keen student of World War II, with considerable service in the combat zones. His assignment to the unenviable task of retrieving records and documents off the bodies of Japanese casualties had effects which continued throughout his life.

Jay was devoted to his wife Gloria, whom he addressed as "Spudsie," and to his daughter Pam, whose graduation from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts' Berkshire County was a special source of pride. He spoke reverentially of the Berkshires, and more than once entertained the troops in the CW office by wearing what he called "my \$20,000 T-shirt," bearing the name of Mount Holyoke. His love-hate relationship with Sidney, Ohio, was another source of unending and occasionally biting humor.

Jay traveled to numismatic conventions, especially enjoying Torex in Toronto, where he linked up with Canadian Trends compiler and professional numismatist Frank Rose for a bit of "R and R" as well as news-gathering. He treated numismatic organizations with a certain good-natured cynicism, especially the Numismatic Literary Guild (NLG), which he swore he would never join.

When I served NLG as executive director I had a kind of gentle revenge, creating in 1988 a unique NLG "Just for Spite Award," hail-

ing Jay as "the unsung Hercules of numismatic writing" in his 27th year with *Coin World*, dubbing the award "a Unique NLG Gotcha." He was gracious enough to resist the temptation to tell NLG what it could do with the award, and instead sent a typically witty thank-you letter.

There is no doubt in my mind that Jay should have been more widely known and his achievements should certainly be more widely appreciated. Yet he preferred to live out of the limelight, caring little whether his byline appeared or not on the endless stream of writing pouring forth from his desk. In a numismatic field over-filled with pretense and cluttered with *poseurs* on the make, he may have been right. But those who were privileged to work with him know the world of numismatics will be the poorer without Jay Guren.

## Check Us Out On The Internet

To keep up to date  
on NLG news  
and review our history,  
check the Guild's official  
Web site maintained by  
Howard M. Berlin.  
It's at [www.numismaticliteraryguild.org](http://www.numismaticliteraryguild.org)



# 2002 NLG WRITERS' COMPETITION RULES



Welcome to this year's  
NLG competition!

Please read these rules carefully if  
you wish to participate in the contest.

1. All NLG members are eligible to participate if their dues have been paid.
2. All entries must have been published between May 1, 2001 and April 30, 2002.
3. Entries must be postmarked not later than June 24, 2002 and received not later than June 28, 2002.
4. All entries must be the work of entrant or must have been produced under entrant's editorial direction.
5. The judges reserve the right to change the category in which an entry may compete, if they believe such change is necessary to assure equity of all participants.
6. Three (3) copies of each entry must be submitted in all categories except portfolio and computer. In these two categories, one copy will suffice. Quality photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles are acceptable.
7. No entries will be returned under any circumstance.
8. No entrant may submit more than one (1) entry in any single category. (The same entry may

also be included in the portfolio competition, however.)

9. In categories with only one entry, judges may decide that no award will be given, or may substitute Special NLG Recognition for the regular NLG Award.
10. All judges' decisions are binding and final; confidentiality of all judging is absolute.
11. Failure to conform to all rules will be cause for disqualification from the competition.
12. All entries must be sent to:

Scott A. Travers  
c/o Sal Germano  
SGRC Inc.  
625 Lafayette Ave.  
Hawthorne, NJ 07506

13. Each entry copy must have the following information attached or it will be disqualified:

- CLASS
- CATEGORY
- ENTRANT'S NAME & ADDRESS
- PUBLICATION
- PUBLICATION DATE
- TITLE OR HEADING
- AUTHOR (IF OTHER THAN ENTRANT)

.....

*The following classes and categories are in force in 2002.  
PLEASE EXAMINE YOUR ENTRIES CAREFULLY to be certain they qualify in the proper category!*

## CLASS I BOOKS

Books may be submitted by author, publisher or editor. Three copies must be submitted. Eligible are new books or those accepted by the judges at their sole discretion as substantially revised versions of earlier works.

### 1. BOOK OF THE YEAR

*The work having the greatest potential impact on numismatics: Criteria include overall reader*

appeal, research quality, photographic, printing and graphic excellence, cover and typography where applicable. Books submitted in the specialized categories below may be considered for Book of the Year as well.

### 2. BEST SPECIALIZED BOOK ON

- (a) United States Coins
- (b) World Coins
- (c) U.S. Paper Money
- (d) World Paper Money
- (e) Tokens & Medals
- (f) Numismatic Investments
- (g) Museum & Exhibition Catalogs

### CLASS II-A

#### U.S. COMMERCIAL

#### NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

(*Coins, COINage magazines and similar periodicals*)

### 3. BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES (3) copies of articles dealing with:

- (a) Coins
- (b) Tokens & Medals
- (c) Paper Money

### 4. BEST COLUMN (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.

### 5. BEST ISSUE (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher, editors. Criteria include overall numismatic appeal, features, departments, graphics, journalistic and editorial excellence as applicable.

### CLASS II-B

#### WORLD COMMERCIAL

#### NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

(*World Coin News, The Celator, similar overseas publications*)

### 6. BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES (3) copies of articles dealing with:

- (a) Coins
- (b) Tokens & Medals
- (c) Paper Money

7. **BEST COLUMN** (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.
8. **BEST ISSUE** (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher, editors. Same criteria as category 5 above.

### **CLASS III** **NON-PROFIT OR CLUB** **NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES**

(*The Numismatist*, *TAMS Journal*, *The Shekel*, etc. NOTE: National publications will no longer be judged separately from regional, state and local publications.)

9. **BEST ARTICLE**  
(3) copies of articles dealing with any subject related to numismatics  
(*ONE Award*)
10. **BEST COLUMN** (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.
11. **BEST ISSUE** (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher and/or editor. Same criteria as category 5 above.

### **CLASS IV** **NUMISMATIC NEWSPAPERS**

12. **BEST SPOT NEWS STORY** or continuing coverage of a developing story in numismatics.
13. **BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES** (3) copies of articles dealing with:
  - (a) Coins
  - (b) Tokens & Medals
  - (c) Paper Money
14. **BEST COLUMN** (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.
15. **BEST ISSUE** (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher, editors. Same criteria as category 5 above.

### **CLASS V** **NON NUMISMATIC** **NEWSPAPERS**

16. **THE MAURICE M. GOULD MEMORIAL AWARD**

Entries may be submitted by publisher, editor or columnist of any coin column appearing regularly in any non-numismatic newspaper of any size circulation.

17. **BEST ARTICLE**

(3) copies of articles dealing with any subject related to numismatics

### **CLASS VI** **COMPUTER SOFTWARE** **AND INTERNET WEB SITES**

18. **BEST WEB SITE ARTICLE**

Submit three (3) printouts of an article appearing on a Web site dealing with any subject related to numismatics.

19. **BEST DEALER WEB SITE**

For static sites, submit the URL. For sites that change, submit three (3) hard copies of the home page.

20. **BEST NON-COMMERCIAL WEB SITE**

This award will be presented for the best non-commercial numismatic site. For static sites, submit the URL. For sites that change, submit three (3) hard copies of the home page.

21. **BEST TRADE PRESS WEB SITE**

This award will be presented for the best numismatic Web site produced by the coin hobby press. For static sites, submit the URL. For sites that change, submit three (3) hard copies of the home page.

22. **BEST NON-NUMISMATIC PRESS WEB SITE**

This award will be presented

for the best numismatic Web site produced by a non-numismatic news organization. Editorial content from members of the hobby press is acceptable. For static sites, submit the URL. For sites that change, submit three (3) hard copies of the home page.

23. **SOFTWARE**

Best presentation of a new numismatic work, or new presentation of a previously published numismatic work, in CD-ROM, DVD, floppy disk or any other electronic format. Only one copy of the work need be submitted. Entry must be accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of first use, plus information required by NLG rules above.

### **CLASS VII** **AUCTION CATALOGS**

24. Submit (3) copies of each catalog entered. Criteria include cover design, overall eye appeal, format, graphics and layout, in-depth research and quality of description. Entries may be submitted by auction firm, auctioneer or cataloger.
  - (a) Coin and currency auction catalogs
  - (b) Catalogs for auctions of books and exonumia

### **CLASS VIII** **COMMERCIAL PUBLICATIONS**

25. **LEE MARTIN FOUNDER'S AWARD** for Best Investment Newsletter: Criteria include overall reader appeal, quality of research and writing, and graphics as applicable. Submit (3) copies EACH of (3) issues, total: 9 items.
26. **BEST DEALER-PUBLISHED** magazine or newspaper. Criteria include overall reader appeal, quality of research and writing, and graphics excellence. Submit (3) copies EACH of at least (3) different issues.

**CLASS IX**  
**BEST ALL-AROUND**  
**PORTFOLIO**

27. Collection of writings and/or photographs and related items demonstrating numismatic writing ability and versatility. **Organization and presentation will count as heavily as volume.** Only one copy of portfolio need be submitted; other copies of items included in portfolio may also be submitted in other relevant categories at entrant's option.

**CLASS X**  
**BEST WRITER IN**  
**NLG NEWSLETTER**

28. *NLG Newsletter* editor alone selects winner. Criteria include writing skill and style, numismatic or organization support, content to inform the member-readers. No entries accepted, editor alone decides.

**CLASS XI**  
**AUDIO-VISUAL**

29. **RADIO:** Best news story, feature report or continuing series involving numismatics. Entries must include standard size audio cassette of story or feature report or (3) selections from continuing series, accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of broadcast, call letters and location of radio station as well as information required in NLG rules listed above. Interview segments no longer qualify for this category.

30. **AUDIO:** Best audio program involving numismatics, but non-broadcast. Includes audio tracks from numismatic slide shows, educational tapes, audio newsletters and other presentations. Entries must include standard size audio cassette, written statement citing date(s) of first use, plus

information required in NLG rules above. Interview segments no longer qualify for this category.

31. **TELEVISION:** Best spot news story, feature report or continuing series involving numismatics. Entries must include standard size cassette recording of television broadcast or (3) selections from continuing series. Tape must be either half-inch VHS or 3/4-inch professional videocassette, and must be accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of broadcast, call letters and location of station. Interview segments no longer qualify for this category.

32. **VIDEO:** Best non-broadcast slide film, movie film or video tape presentation involving numismatics. Entry must include audio as well as visual materials, either written script or sound track of film, audio or video cassette used in presentation. Entry must be accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of first use, plus information required by NLG rules above. Interview segments no longer qualify for this category.

**33. CLEMENT F. BAILEY  
 MEMORIAL AWARD**

First presented in the 1987 competition, this award was endowed by Jim Miller of Miller Magazines in memory of an especially beloved member of the numismatic writing community and NLG founder, Clement F. Bailey. This award recognizes excellence among new writers in numismatics, whose first published writings appeared during the previous year. Nominees are supplied solely by numismatic publishers.

**THE CLEMY AWARD**

In a category of its own since 1968 is the Clemy Award. The highest honor of NLG is bestowed annually during the NLG Bash on an NLG member in recognition of writing skill, dedication to numismatics, sense of humor and dedication to the Numismatic Literary Guild. Nominations are submitted by members of the board to the previous year's winner, who makes the final choice.

**ROLL OF HONOR CLEMY  
 AWARD WINNERS 1968-2001**

1968	Clement F. Bailey
1969	Edward C. Rochette
1970	Lee Martin
1971	Margo Russell
1972	Virginia Culver
1973	Maurice M. Gould
1974	Eva B. Adams
1975	Ray Byrne
1976	Chester L. Krause
1977	Richard S. Yeoman
1978	Lee F. Hewitt
1979	Abe Kosoff
1980	Glenn Smedley
1981	Arlie Slabaugh
1982	Eric P. Newman
1983	Kenneth Bressett
1984	Donn Pearlman
1985	Walter Breen
1986	Ed Reiter
1987	David Alexander
1988	James L. Miller
1989	Q. David Bowers
1990	David L. Ganz
1991	Clifford Mishler
1992	R.W. Julian
1993	Russell Rulau
1994	Elvira Clain-Stefanelli
1995	Beth Deisher
1996	Col. Bill Murray
1997	Alan Herbert
1998	Burnett Anderson
1999	Thomas K. DeLorey
2000	Wendell Wolke
2001	David C. Harper

Worthy of special mention are two earlier works published in 1979 by Richard Plant. The better known, "Greek Coin Types and Their Identification," has more than 5,000 original line drawings of coin designs categorized by type. His other work, "Greek, Semitic, Asiatic Coins and How To Read Them," demystifies many of the linguistic problems that plague every collector, dealer and scholar. Though sometimes unfairly maligned, these were superb – even sublime – works that have made a great contribution to the field.

A unique product of the early 1980s was Michael Miller's "Classical Greek and Roman Coins: The Investor's Handbook" (1982). Its contents were kinder and gentler than its rather mercenary title suggests. In addition to candidly discussing how to evaluate the quality of ancient coins, it

also contained side-by-side photo comparisons of two coins of the same issue that, for reasons he revealed, were worth significantly different sums of money.

A variety of general surveys on ancients that allowed collectors to gain world-class information at modest prices were published in the 1970s, '80s and '90s. Some of the best are John Anthony's "Collecting Greek Coins" (1983), P.J. Casey's "Understanding Ancient Coins: An Introduction For Archaeologists and Historians" (1986), Andrew Burnett's "Coins" (1991, part of the "Interpreting the Past" series), Ian Carradice's "Greek Coins" (1995, part of the "Classical Bookshelf" series) and David Hendin's "Guide To Biblical Coins" (first published in 1976, and now in its fourth edition).

The leading publisher in this respect from 1986 through 1990 was Seaby, which released several excellent titles offering quick and reliable answers. They include: Ian Carradice and Martin Price's "Coinage in the Greek World" (1988), Andrew Burnett's "Coinage in the Roman World" (1987), Kevin Butcher's "Roman Provincial Coins: An Introduction to the Greek Imperials" (1988), Clive Foss' "Roman Historical Coins" (1990), and two titles by John Melville Jones, "A Dictionary of Ancient Greek Coins" (1986) and "A Dictionary of Ancient Roman Coins" (1990).

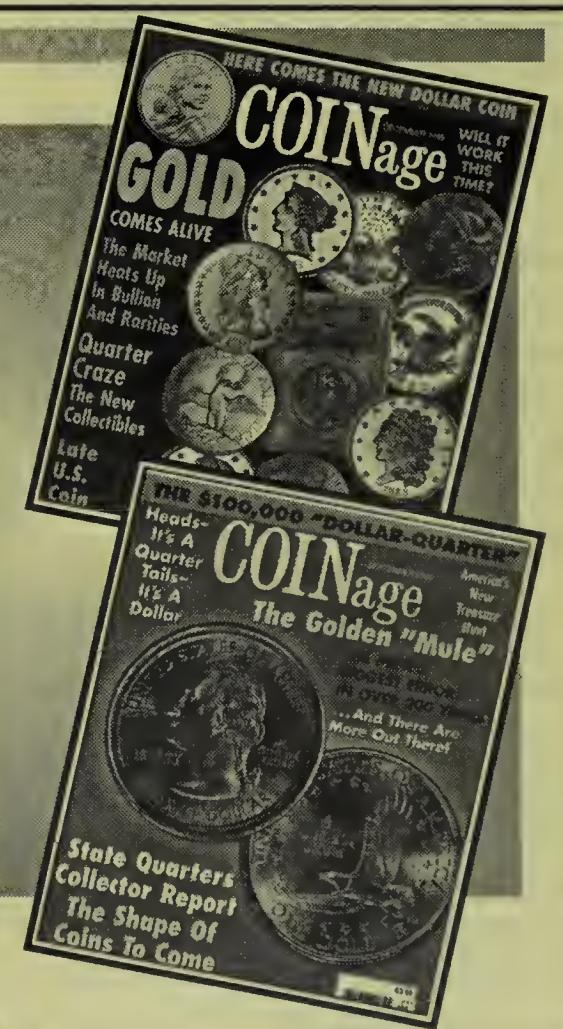
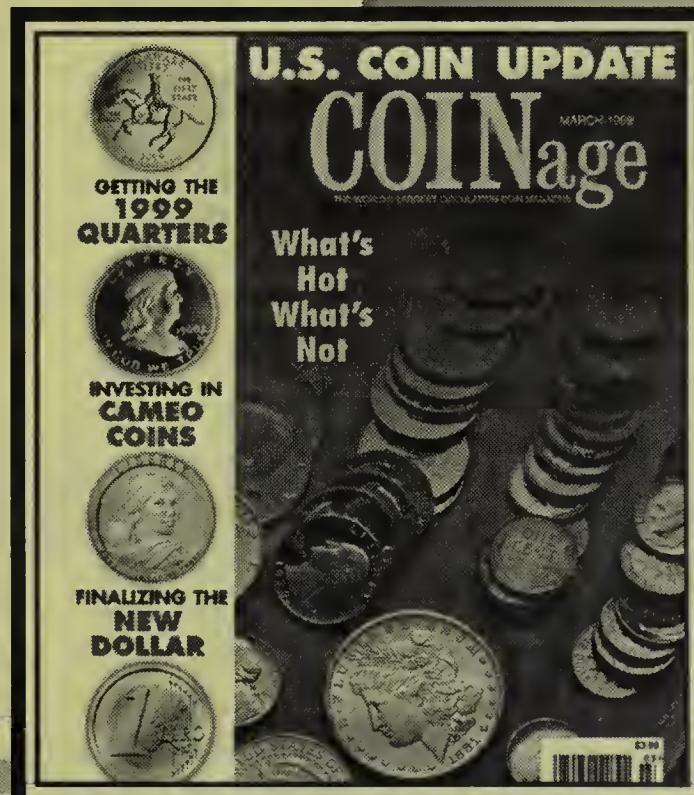
If collectors were willing to take a step up in cost, a few coffee table books were available. The two best teamed up the photography of Max Hirmer with texts written by the scholars Colin Kraay ("Greek Coins," published in 1966) and J.P.C. Kent (Roman

Cont. on page 12

We thank the members of NLG whose articles have enriched COINage magazine since 1964.

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Coins," published in 1978). Both books are highly sought after to this day, and as a result, are both elusive and expensive.

A number of books we might call "advanced surveys" go beyond the needs of the beginner, but still deserve inclusion because they skirt the upper edges of some books already mentioned. All belong to one series or another, the most important of which is "The Library of Numismatics" series edited by Philip Grierson. It includes: Colin Kraay's "Archaic and Classical Greek Coins" (1976), Otto Morkholm's "Early Hellenistic Coinage" (1991), Michael Crawford's "Coinage & Money Under the Roman Republic" (1985), R.A.G. Carson's "Coins of the Roman Empire" (1990), and Philip Grierson's own "Byzantine Coins" (1982).

Each of the books in Grierson's "library" series is extremely useful, with those by Kraay, Morkholm and Grierson being especially important in light of what else is available in their fields. Not from this series, but equally important is G.K. Jenkins' "Ancient Greek Coins," originally published in 1972 as part of the "World of Numismatics" series. In 1990 it was sensibly revised and made part of the "Coins In History" series.

To round out this survey of introductory books, we'll examine the contributions of Wayne Sayles, who as founder of *The Celator* magazine and author of nine books, has done more than anyone (with the possible exception of David Sear) to develop a sense of community in the ancient coin world. Indeed, he has done much to cure collectors of the "the Robinson Crusoe syndrome" to

which both he and David Sear have often made reference.

Ever since its inception in February 1987 as a 12-page newspaper, *The Celator* has been the agora for the hobby of ancient coin collecting in the United States. A key to its success – which by no means was a foregone conclusion – was its role as a source of publication. Many amateur and professional writers who simply wanted a place to be published, or who wanted to circumvent five-year waits and overbearing editorial review panels, found *The Celator* a godsend.

By September 1990, Wayne's self-proclaimed "tabloid" had evolved from a newspaper published every other month to a glossy monthly magazine. It remained a vibrant forum for discussion and debate through its editorials and letters to the editor.

Compilations of articles in *The Celator* will have given birth to at least five books: Dennis Kroh's landmark "Ancient Coin Reference Reviews" (1993), Bob Levy's "The Coins' Point of View" (1993), Marvin Tameanko's "Monumental Coins" (1999), Keith Emmett's "Alexandrian Coins" (2001) and a forthcoming compilation of Roman biographies carefully written and copiously illustrated by Jasper Burns.

Wayne suspended his editorial duties at *The Celator* in August 1995 so he could begin to write the six introductory books on ancient coins that comprise the series now known as "Ancient Coin Collecting." His concept was novel in many respects. First, he wrote every volume; second, he gave candid advice on how to collect; and third, they were distributed to both the numismatic mar-

ket and general venues, such as Barnes & Noble retail stores.

The first book in his series, "Ancient Coin Collecting" (1996), was an instant success. It covered the whole gamut of "ancient" coinages and theoretically was a stand-alone volume. Five other books with specialized topics soon followed: "ACC II: Numismatic Art of the Greek World" (1997); "ACC III: The Roman World – Politics and Propaganda" (1997); "ACC IV: Roman Provincial Coins" (1998); "ACC V: The Romaion/Byzantine Culture" (1998); and "ACC VI: Non-Classical Cultures" (1999).

But lest we forget, these were not Wayne's first or last books. His first two, written in collaboration with his longtime friend William Spengler, were entitled "Turkoman Figural Bronze Coins and Their Iconography." The first volume, "The Artuqids," was published in 1992 while he was still editing *The Celator*, and the second volume, "The Zengids," was finished in 1996, when he was knee-deep in production of the first of his "Ancient Coin Collecting" volumes. Wayne's most recent book, "Classical Deception" (2001), continues his legacy by investigating forgeries of ancient coins.

When all is said and done, the new ancient coin collector of 2002 has a tremendous advantage over his predecessors, especially those who started before 1985. Quantum leaps have been made in what is available to the beginner both in print and online. And this does not even touch upon what has been published for the scholar and experienced collector, for the advances there have been no less dramatic.

# LAST CHANCE! NLG Members & Numismatic Writers!

Heritage announces a  
**\$5,000 Grand Prize**  
for the best article on  
**www.HeritageCoin.com**

Heritage Numismatic Auctions and Heritage Rare Coin Galleries are pleased to announce a major contest for numismatic writers, who submit articles to appear on America's #1 numismatic website: HeritageCoin.com.

**The most popular article will receive the \$5,000 Grand Prize.**

#### Rules & Instructions:

- The contest will run through the 2002 New York ANA, where the \$5,000 Grand Prize will be awarded.
- You may submit an unlimited number of articles electronically (by e-mail or on disk, including all illustrations; MS Word preferred).
- Articles selected will be posted on the Heritage website:  
<http://www.HeritageCoin.com>.
- Articles may be fresh or previously published (you must be able to grant Heritage permission to post your article); fresh articles selected for posting may be later published elsewhere at your option. Authors will receive no payment from Heritage other than entry in the contest.
- You must have permission to reproduce any illustrations, and they must also be submitted in electronic form.
- Articles may pertain to any numismatic-oriented topic. Research may be from primary or secondary sources.

*The most popular article will be determined by readership statistics and ratings by HeritageCoin.com members.*



Entries should be emailed to [Jim@HeritageCoin.com](mailto:Jim@HeritageCoin.com), or mailed on computer disk to the attention of James Halperin, c/o Heritage Plaza, 100 Highland Park Village, 2nd Floor, Dallas, Texas 75205

# Guide To Biographical Research

By Pete Smith

When I joined the NLG in 1985, I expected to find articles in the *NLG Newsletter* that would help me become a better numismatic writer. Although there have been a few articles related to the topic, they are few. Now that I have more experience as a researcher and the self confidence to expose my work to the NLG, I decided to write the type of article that I wanted to read 17 years ago.

Biographical information can add color to many numismatic topics. In some cases a few basic facts are enough. In other cases more extensive information is appropriate. A good numismatic researcher and writer should learn the basic resources for biographical research.

Following are my top 10 tips for doing research on numismatic personalities.

**1. Know your library.** In the past 10 years I have patronized a dozen library collections in my local area. For some types of research I can use my neighborhood branch library. For more specialized needs, I may use a university library or the state historical society. For other areas, I use specialized collections within the large libraries.

Researchers need experience knowing which libraries have the resources to match their research needs. The good news is that most libraries can do searches of other collections in the area and direct you to the appropriate facility.

Books can be borrowed from the ANA Library and other club

libraries. Because much of what I write is on short deadline, I usually rely only on what I can find locally.

I also have an extensive personal library with references related to my areas of interest. I suspect that many writers also rely on their personal libraries for much of their research. Start at home first and use the public libraries to fill in gaps.

**2. Check DAB.** In my opinion, the best single source for biographical information is the "Dictionary of American Biography." It comes in 20 volumes and six supplements and can probably be found at your branch library. It covers people of some recognized importance, such as the people who appear on coins, medals and currency. It is unlikely to include coin dealers or collectors. A slight problem is that biographies are not published until 20 years after the death of the subject.

The second best resource is the "National Cyclopaedia of American Biography." It can probably be found only at the larger libraries. Biographies of the subjects are often published at the peak of their career and will not include information on their deaths.

**3. Check the "Biography and Genealogy Master Index."** When I started researching biographies, this was a multi-volume paper reference. In recent years it is provided as a computer database available through the library. This reference provides almost no specific information on the subject but lists other references that have included published biographies on the subject.

Then your library staff can help you find those references.

**4. Network.** The Numismatic Bibliomania Society has an electronic newsletter (*The E-Sylum*) where subscribers may ask research questions and frequently get excellent responses. I know the Early American Coppers club has another e-mail newsletter (*Region 8*) where members can submit questions. Other clubs have Web sites that can be used to network.

The ANA conventions and other large shows provide an opportunity to meet other writers and authorities on specific fields. You don't need cooperation from everyone. One good contact may provide a valuable lead to information or sources.

It is important to ask the right questions. If you asked, "Who can provide me with a list of all auction appearances and prices realized in the past 50 years for a \$20 gold piece," the question is too broad. If you ask, "Who can tell me the price realized on lot 123 of sale ABC," you will probably get the right answer.

**5. Check the Web.** Some people are already comfortable doing searches on the Web. Some will never be comfortable. Then there is the group who want to get better.

Learn how to broaden a search when results are too few. Learn how to narrow a search when results are too many. Some problems may be impossible to solve. As an example, I attempted to find references on the grandson of a famous man with the same name. There probably are a hundred references on

the grandfather for any one on the grandson. It is hard to find the right tree in the forest.

Learn what kind of information can be found on the Web. Much of what has appeared in print in the past five years can be found on the Web. Little of what was published in 1793 can be found there. I did research on Charles Schulz and the "Little Rock Nine" on the Web because these are contemporary topics. In contrast, I don't think anything new has been written on Edward Cogan or Joseph Mickley in the past hundred years. Research on them must go back to early print sources.

**6. Let Dave Bowers work for you.** Every month I check the index of some book written by Bowers. "The American Numismatic Association Centennial History" provides information on the ANA officers, staff, volunteers and contributors to *The Numismatist*. I will check other references based on the appropriate time period. "American Numismatics Before the Civil War 1760-1860" covers the century stated but is best for the people who contributed to the emergence of American numismatics around 1858 to 1870. Bowers has written books on Virgil Brand, Louis Eliasberg, the Garretts, Abe Kosoff and the Norwebs. Each of these books includes extensive information on dealers and collectors from the era.

**7. Find an obituary.** If you know the date of death, it may be possible to find an obituary in *The Numismatist* a few months later. Earlier obituaries may be found in the *American Journal of Numismatics*. My university library has old newspapers on microfilm for

the major newspapers in the country. For smaller papers, it may be possible to borrow microfilm through inter-library loan.

**8. Find the family.** Sometimes finding the family is as easy as looking up a last name in the phone book. Resources on the Web may also help. I have done extensive research on the Eckfeldt family and have the advantage that everyone in this country with that last name is a descendent of Adam Eckfeldt. This has allowed me to talk to several descendants on the phone and contact others by e-mail. The situation gets much tougher with a common name like, for example, Smith.

In most families somebody's aunt is the family genealogist. Most are happy to share information. This can be the simple stuff such as dates of birth and dates of death. A good genealogist will also gather information on jobs and hobbies. Some gather oral histories and the old family stories. One family genealogist should be able to provide more than enough information for a good article on the topic.

**9. Know your market.** When I write for a broader circulation publication such as *The Numismatist*, I assume that the average reader is not familiar with my topic. I can frequently find enough biographical resources in my personal library.

When I write for a specialized club newsletter, I expect that the average reader is already familiar with the basic information and the well-known literature on the topic. Although I may review that foundation of information, I want to include information that would not be commonly known. That

requires research in sources that are not available to everyone.

**10. Know your deadline.** Some collectors labor for 30 years to write the perfect reference on their topic. Most writers in the NLG work on shorter deadlines.

I usually take two weeks to write my column for *The Numismatist*. That includes time for research. Before I start, I have to believe that I will find enough information to fill a thousand words. If I can't find some fact in that time, it doesn't get in the column. It is not unusual for me to find something later that I might have included but the deadline has passed.

I have been looking for the answer to some questions for 10 years or more. Finding the answer would justify an article but until that happens, there is no incentive to start. In some cases my discoveries have been the basis for my regular column, while in other cases my discoveries become the topic for a special article.

These are a few basic suggestions. Once writers get comfortable with the basic tools, they can move on to the more advanced resources.

## Advertising Rates

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